

By the Queene.

142

A Proclamation made agaynst seditious and trayterous Bookes, Billes, and Writinges.



THE Queenes Maestie being of late certenly insourmed of the trayterous boldnes of certen wicked and seditious persons, that enuyng and malicing the good bniuersall quiet of this her Realme and subiectes, do by secrete maner contriue and scatter certaine infamous scrollles and billes in some partes of her Realme, and into some other partes bring in trayterous bookes and Bulles, as it were from Rome, therby with untrutches and fallehodes, yea with diuers monstrous absurdities to the slaunder of the Nobilitie and Counsell of the Realme, and not sparyng also in the same to bitter hygh Treasons agaynst the estate and Royall dignitie of her Maestie, to ingen- der in the heade of the simple ignoraunt multitude, a mislykyng or murmurynge agaynst the quiet gouerne- ment of the Realme, and namely in malitious depaulyng of such actions as are and haue ben by good coun- sell prouidently deuised, necessarily attempted, and wel atcheeued by her Maesties order, for defence not only of her Maestie, but of the very whole body and people of the Realme from the open furie of Rebelles, and intended invasions by outwarde enemies: Hath hereupon thought good and necessary to warne al her good faithfull subiectes, that if any such trayterous or lewde and slaunderous billes or bookes, in writing or in print, shall any wyse come to the handes of any person that can or may by readyng of any part of the same, finde the same to be of siche lewde qualities agaynst her Maestie, or the Nobilitie of the Realme, or any of her Counsell, or tending to the slaunder of any other publike estate and officer: that immediatly without shewyng or report or speeche therof to any person, he shall bring and deliuer it to the handes of the Lieuetenant of the same Shire, or to his Deputie. Or if in case the same Lieuetenant or his Deputie shalbe so farre of, as the finder for pouertie or other necessary impediment cannot speedily resort to them ther- with: Then the sayde synder shall without makynge any other priuie thereto, bryng it to the next Justice of peace, or head Officer that can reade: who being insourmed therof, shal examine the synder of the maner and other circumstaunces, to his discretion necessary, howe the same was founde: And therupon shal seale it vp close, with the examination of the synder, if any person be thereby chargeable, and shall sende it immediatly to her Maestie, and her Counsell, without geuyng knowledge of the contentes thereof to any other maner person: And shall also vpon the examination of the synder, do his vttermost by his owne auctoritie, or by aduertising to any other hauyng auctoritie in the same Shire or libertie, or other wyse, to cause to be appre- hended all the persons charged or suspected as aucthors, or any wyse participantes of the sayd slaunderous and seditious billes, bookes, or scrollles, to the intent the same persons so charged or suspected may be further tryed and orderd, with such seueritie as their deserthes shall require.

And furthermore, if any maner of writing or scrollles shal happen in any suspitious maner to come to the handes of any person, the same beyng not able by readyng to discerne what the same is, nor knowyng who the person is by whom he shall attayne to it: The sayde person so beyng ignoraunt of readyng, shall soorth- with shewe the same to some honest discrete Officer, nearest to the place, that can reade it. Who syndyng it to be any wyse seditious or slaunderous, shall soorthwith cary it and the brynger also, and deliuer them both in lyke maner to the Lieuetenant of the Shire, or other Officer, in lyke maner as if he had ben the first synder therof hym selfe.

And if any person can by any meanes discouer who are the aucthors or writers, counsellors, or conuey- ers of any such trayterous or slaunderous billes, bookes, or writings, that alredy hath ben or shalbe here- after dispearsed: the same so doyng in such sort as it may come to the knowledge of her Maestie, or her Coun- sell, shalbe so largely rewarded, as duryng his or their lyues they shall haue full cause to thinke them selues well vsed. And if he haue ben any wyse a partener in the same faulte, and yet wyll discouer the principal aucthors or offenders therin: he shall not onely be fauourably pardoned for his concealement or offence, but shall also be so well rewarded, as he shall never haue cause to repent of his discouerie. And if cause shall so re- quire, both such discouerers shalbe preserued from the note of blame of accusing, as farre soorth as may be any maner denised.

143

Ind contraywile, if any person after the publication hereof, halbe proved to have found or ben made
privie to any suche slaunderous bookes, or noxinges, and not to have bled them as afores is prescrisbed:
Or that any person, other then suche Officers as are in maner afores expresse and appoynted to receaue
suche scrollis of the synders, halbe made privie thereto by the synders, or by any other person, and shall
not disclose their knowledge in maner aboue expresse, as yf they had ben the synt synders: Her Ma-
iestie willeth it to be vnderstand, that all suche persons so concealing the same, shall vpon proove therof,
be attached and committed closely to the next Gaole, as concealers and maynteyners of sedition and
tumultes, and shall not be bayled nor delivere, without expresse commaundement or knowledge of the
Lieuetenantes of the Shires, or the Queenes Maiestie, or her priuie Counsell.

Ind for the supressing of these kindes of seedes of Treason and Sedition: Her Maiestie chargeth
all her Lieuetenantes and Officers, to whom the execution hereof may any wise appertayne, to be
ready, carefull, and diligent to the apprehending of these kindes of wicked sowers of sedition, and to the
straight examination of all persons that may be any wise suspected by their disordred lynes or speeches,
or by any other probable meanes, to be parteners hereto, or otherwise sowers of seditious Tales, with
suche severitie as the same requireth: So; so is it seene very necessary at this time, wherein appeareth
a malitious, hidden, and canhred purpose of some wycked number of lewde people, that haue an in-
wardre and greedy desyre to syyre vp tumultes and bprozes, and violently to burst a sunder the bandes
of the publike peace whiche the Realme entoyeth, whereby they and they: like confederates might
make spoyle and hauoche of all the good Subiectes of the Realme, and as Traytors make their gayne
by conspiring and confederating with forreyn enemies, to the hazard, or at the least to the great char-
ges of the Realme, to be necessarily suspeyned for defence of the same, agaynst suche attemptes, eyther
at home, or from abrode.

Seuen at her Maiesties manor of Otelande the synt day of Iulij, 1570, in the twelvth yere of her
Maiesties raigne,

God save the Queene.

 Imprinted at London in Powles

Churcharde, by Richard Iugge and John Canwood,
Printers to the Queenes Maiestie.

Cum privilegio Regis Maestatis.